

**Bianca, Pam**

---

**From:** Anne Walker <kunzite52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2014 3:11 PM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** Support SB32

I support a raise in the minimum wage. From experience I know how deeply affected I was when they cut food stamps for me by 11.00 a month. But for those single mothers who are working, some two jobs, just to keep their kids fed and a roof over their heads the recent cuts will be devastating.

There is an answer and that is to raise the minimum wage so that single moms and dads do NOT have to work two jobs just to make ends meet. This would allow parents to be home more for their kids and a domino effect would take place. Kids would no longer have to fend for themselves for hours a day, getting into trouble on the streets or with gangs, winding up ,eventually, in jail.

I know what it is like to live in poverty because I do, I get SSD and live on 749.00 per month. But I cannot work. I have spoken to so many out of work who would do most anything to find a job. But what good will that do them when they can make more collecting Medicaid than they can working?

Raising the minimum wage would do more than give people more money to live on. It would take more people off of Medicaid, it would take more kids off the street and allow them the guidance a parent is supposed to provide. And kids, between the ages of 16 and 22 who have not yet completely developed mentally would not make dumb choices about how to supplement their parents' income and care for their younger siblings.

Raising the minimum wage, would then keep more kids in school where they belong, off the streets and out of the cycle to prison that too many in poverty suffer from.

I used to get by on the food stamps provided to me 10 years ago when I became disabled, but no longer can I even go two weeks before they are gone and I have to go to the town for free food or starve. This is because nothing has kept up with the cost of living. Not wages, not food stamps, not Medicaid, not SS.

There is hope in raising the minimum wage for so many. So many kids who live in the poorest sections of town, so many who cannot afford a car or to be home for their kids, so many who have to work and supplement this income with food lines and state assistance. It is the right thing to do and it needs to be done now. Now, before we create another generation of prison children. Now, before another family has to go hungry or winds up homeless because they cannot afford their rent. When we pay people a decent living they can then sustain themselves, work as they want to, and not have to worry about the children or losing their homes.

This cannot be taken lightly because there is an entire generation of poverty children that will be affected if something does not change, raising the minimum wage will at least reduce some of this poverty cycle, it is a start, a big start in changing the way things are, in returning to the way it was when the middle class was doing far more than getting by or living paycheck to paycheck.

Please support this for our state. In the long run, this will reduce the amount spent by CT on Medicaid. It will reduce the prison population. It will give children a chance to be children and not forced to drop out and go to work or make money illegally. Maybe eventually we will get to affordable education, but until that time something has to be done now. This can be, if you support it.

I beg you to support this increase. Give CT's three of the poorest cities nation wide a chance to come back, to grow and to by default decrease the tax burden that we all suffer from. With great respect and hopeful consideration, Anne Walker

Anne Walker

06033